



PORTUGUESE LANGUAGE TEST - CIPLE A2

The Portuguese language test for nationality applications is known as CIPLE A2 and is run by the University of Lisbon. For the Algarve, the centre is the University of Faro where exams are held twice a year in May and November. Tests are offered more frequently in Lisbon. All test applications must be made online a minimum of one month in advance. The cost is 70 euros. Non-EU citizens need the language test for permanent residency.

To apply for a test:

<http://caple.letras.ulisboa.pt/seasons/exams>

Preparing for the test

The amount of preparation depends on one's knowledge of Portuguese. It is advisable to take some formal lessons in order to prepare for the type of questions used in the exam. Online tutors are available who teach by the hour via Skype. Buying the book of model exams is also a good idea:

<http://www.lidel.pt/pt/catalogo/portugues-europeu-lingua-es-trangeira/avaliacaocertificacao/exames-de-portugues-caple-ul/>

Resources for learning Portuguese

Julie Dawn Fox has put together ideas about various ways to learn Portuguese. Most are free.

<https://juliedawnfox.com/2014/04/07/learn-european-portuguese-free/>

Another resource is www.practiceportuguese.com. There is a small monthly fee to log on to podcasts and another fee for entry to their 'Learning Studio'. The podcasts vary from interesting articles to hour long lessons with useful vocabulary, expressions and quizzes.

www.practiceportuguese.com/learning-studio/ - The 'Learning Studio' focuses on European Portuguese grammar in an entertaining way with questions and correct pronunciation.



Another useful site is www.conversationexchange.com. This is a website where one can 'meet' other language learners and swap help with English for help with Portuguese. Most use Skype or other similar programmes.

The Test

Tests normally take place on a Saturday. The schedule is available upon arrival at 9am. Candidates are expected to be present 15 minutes before their scheduled test. The test is in three parts:

Part one (1 ¼ hours): reading comprehension and creative writing.

Only a pencil, an eraser and a blue or black ballpoint pen are permitted. All bags, phones etc. are held at the back of the classroom.

Part two (30 mins): oral comprehension.

There are 25 questions in 30 minutes. Recordings are about a variety of situations and each is played twice. If a conversation takes place in a street, then there will be noise. Speech is at the normal speed.

Part three (15 minutes): answering questions:

In this session, two candidates are teamed together. The first element is 5 minutes, telling the examiner about yourself. It is not a question and answer session but a monologue, so can be practised beforehand. For the second element, the two candidates are given a topic to discuss. In the final 5 minutes, each candidate is given a topic to discuss by the examiner.

Test results

Each candidate is given a number and an URL to check the results in approximately 7 weeks. The certificate is available 3 weeks after. 55% is the passing mark.